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Claims:

1. In a telecommunications system comprising a provisioning center and a first and second switch, a method of establishing a private line connection between a first and second line, comprising the steps of:

assigning to a provisioning center, an address of a switching element for receiving and transmitting signaling messages from and to a signaling network;

the provisioning center sending a first message to said first switch connectable to said first line, said initial message comprising an identification of said first line;

in said first switch connectable to said first line, identifying a first network address for accessing an interswitch network;

returning a response message to said provisioning center, said response message comprising said first network address;

said provisioning center sending a second message to said second switch connectable to said second line, said second message comprising an identification of said second line, and further comprising said first network address;

said second switch selecting a second network address;

connecting said second line to said second network address;

connecting said first line to said first network address; and

establishing a connection over said interswitch network between said first and said second network addresses.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of establishing a connection comprises the step of establishing a packet connection over said interswitch network, wherein said interswitch network is a packet network.

3. The method of Claim 2, wherein the step of establishing a connection comprises the step of establishing an Internet Protocol (IP) connection over said interswitch network, wherein said interswitch network is an IP network.

4. The method of Claim 3, wherein the step of sending said first message comprises the step of sending an Initial Address Message (IAM) specified by a Bearer Independent Call Control (BICC) Protocol message.

5. The method of Claim 3, wherein the step of returning a response message

comprises the step of returning a message complete message as specified by a Bearer Independent Call Control (BICC) Protocol.

6. The method of Claim 2, wherein the step of establishing a connection comprises the step of establishing a virtual connection over a virtual path packet network wherein said interswitch network is a virtual path packet network.

7. The method of Claim 6, wherein the step of sending said first message comprises the step of sending an Initial Address Message (IAM) specified by a Bearer Independent Call Control (BICC) Protocol message.

8. The method of Claim 6, wherein the step of returning a response message comprises the step of returning a message complete message as specified by a Bearer Independent Call Control (BICC) Protocol.

9. The method of Claim 6, wherein said virtual path packet network is an Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) network.

10. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of establishing a connection comprises the step of establishing a circuit connection over said interswitch network,

wherein said interswitch network is a circuit switched network.

11. The method of Claim 10, wherein the step of establishing a connection comprises the step of establishing a Time Division Multiplex (TDM) connection over said interswitch network.

12. The method of Claim 10, wherein said first network address and said second network address are addresses for identifying a trunk to said interswitch network.

13. The method of Claim 10, wherein said first message is a Signaling System 7 (SS7) (ISUP), ISDN (Integrated Services Digital Network), User Part (ISUP) Protocol, Initial Address Message (IAM).

14. The method of Claim 10, wherein said response message is a Signaling System 7 (SS7) Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN), User Part (ISUP) Address Complete Message (ACM).

15. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of assigning to said provisioning center an address of a switching element comprises the step of assigning a Signaling

System 7 Point Code.

16. In a telecommunications system comprising a provisioning center, a signaling network, and a first and second switch apparatus for establishing a private line connection between a first and second line, comprising:

means for assigning to a provisioning center, an address of a switching element for receiving and transmitting signaling messages from and to said signaling network;

the provisioning center comprising means for sending a first message to said first switch connectable to said first line, said initial message comprising an identification of said first line;

in said first switch connectable to said first line, means for identifying a first network address for accessing an interswitch network;

means for returning a response message to said provisioning center, said response message comprising said first network address;

said provisioning center further comprising means for sending a second message to said second switch connectable to said second line, said second message comprising an identification of said second line, and further comprising said first network address;

said second switch comprising means for selecting a second network address;

means for connecting said second line to said second network address;

means for connecting said first line to said first network address; and

means for establishing a connection over said interswitch network between said first and said second network addresses.

17. The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein said means for establishing a connection comprises means for establishing a packet connection over said interswitch network, wherein said interswitch network is a packet network.

18. The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein said means for establishing a connection comprises means for establishing an Internet Protocol (IP) connection over said interswitch network, wherein said interswitch network is an IP network.

19. The apparatus of Claim 18, wherein said means for sending said first message comprises means for sending an Initial Address Message (IAM) specified by a

Bearer Independent Call Control (BICC) Protocol message.

20. The apparatus of Claim 18, wherein said means for returning a response message comprises means for returning a message complete message as specified by a Bearer Independent Call Control (BICC) Protocol.

21. The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein said means for establishing a connection comprises means for establishing a virtual connection over a virtual path packet network wherein said interswitch network is a virtual path packet network.

22. The apparatus of Claim 21, wherein said means for sending said first message comprises means for sending an Initial Address Message (IAM) specified by a Bearer Independent Call Control (BICC) Protocol message.

23. The apparatus of Claim 21, wherein said means for returning a response message comprises means for returning a message complete message as specified by a Bearer Independent Call Control (BICC) Protocol.

24. The apparatus of Claim 21, wherein said virtual path packet network is an Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) network.

25. The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein said means for establishing a connection comprises means for establishing a circuit connection over said interswitch network, wherein said interswitch network is a circuit switched network.

26. The apparatus of Claim 25, wherein said means for establishing a connection comprises means for establishing a Time Division Multiplex (TDM) connection over said interswitch network.

27. The apparatus Claim 25, wherein said first network address and said second network address are addresses for identifying a trunk to said interswitch network.

28. The apparatus of Claim 25, wherein said first message is a Signaling System 7 (SS7) (ISUP), ISDN (Integrated Services Digital Network), User Part (ISUP) Protocol, Initial Address Message (IAM).

29. The apparatus of Claim 25, wherein said response message is a Signaling System 7 (SS7) Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN), User Part (ISUP) Address Complete Message (ACM).

30. The method of Claim 16, wherein said means for assigning to said provisioning center an address of a switching element comprises means for assigning a Signaling System 7 Point Code.